

2020 Cabernet Franc, Heringer Vineyard



History

We have always loved Cabernet Franc wines, especially from the Loire Valley in France. Wines from Chinon, Samur, Touraine, and Bourgueil have always found a place at our table, and since the Loire Valley is not far from Anne Dashe's hometown in Brittany, it's been our goal to make a domestic Cabernet Franc with lovely texture, pure fruit, and spice. We found a perfect location at the Heringer Vineyard in Clarksburg, with the cold nights and warm days reminiscent of the Loire Valley climate. These vines produced a Cabernet Franc with the character and light mouthfeel we wanted, but with an added fruit component reflective of the Californian weather. Serve slightly chilled to highlight the delicate fruit.

Production

The 2020 vintage was a doozy. Fires, smoke, unusual weather--it was a nightmare in most wine regions. But luckily, Clarksburg was largely spared smoke damage by winds that swept in from San Francisco Bay and kept the smoke away. We harvested the Cabernet Franc as early as we could, and it escaped any smoke exposure.

We hand-sorted the grapes on the way to the destemmer to eliminate any imperfect fruit. The crushed grapes were then fermented using only the natural yeast population on the surface of the grapes to conduct the fermentation.

At dryness, the wine was gently pressed in a membrane press and pumped into traditional 60-gallon oak barrels. The wine was aged for 18 months in 85% neutral French oak barrels to maintain the vibrancy of the fruit.

Production Notes:

Varietals

100% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Clarksburg

Alcohol

12.7 % by vol.

Time in oak

18 months

Oak

15% 1 yr old French oak
85% neutral French oak

Production

65 cases produced

Optimum time for consumption

2022-2030

Tasting Notes:

Color: Light red

Aroma: Black cherry, pomegranate, cocoa powder, and a slight earthy note.

Taste: Bright fruit entry of pomegranate, cassis, and black cherry, followed with slightly peppery spice notes. Lighter bodied wine with firm tannins, velvety midpalate, and balanced acidity. Persistent finish of black cherry, pomegranate and spice.